



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
 AND SMES  
 Ecosystems III: Construction, Machinery and Standardisation  
 The Director

Brussels  
 GROW.H.2  
 grow.h.2(2023)607093

Dear Mr [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter of 11 January 2023 in which you asked questions regarding the application of the ‘common charging’ solution introduced in the Directive (EU) 2022/2380 amending the Radio Equipment Directive (RED) 2014/53/EU to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and more specifically to headsets and headphones providing hearing protection while enabling communication in noisy environments and explosive atmospheres.

To your first question, about applicability of [Directive \(EU\) 2022/2380](#) to protective communication headsets and headphones that fall in the scope of the [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/425](#) (PPE), the short answer is yes. Indeed, headsets and headphones falling under the scope of Regulation (EU) 2016/425 and that comply with the definition of radio equipment of [Directive 2014/53/EU](#) (RED) and do not fall into any of the exclusions of the scope indicated in Article 1 of that Directive, fall under Directive (EU) 2022/2380 and shall integrate the ‘common charging’ solution.

To your second question, about [Directive 2014/34/EU](#) (ATEX) requirements exempting [Directive \(EU\) 2022/2380](#) to apply to communication headsets and headphones, the short answer is no. Indeed, as mentioned above, if the communication headsets and headphones comply with the definition of radio equipment of [Directive 2014/53/EU](#) and do not fall into any of the exclusions of the scope indicated in Article 1 of that Directive, it falls under Directive (EU) 2022/2380 and shall integrate the ‘common charging’ solution. The Directive 2014/34/EU lists potential sources of ignition such as: electric sparks, arcs and flashes, electrostatic discharges, electromagnetic waves, etc. and the guidelines (<https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/52840>) explicitly mention headphones as ‘electrical equipment with potential ignition sources like heat and sparks of electrical origin’. Therefore, such equipment has to comply with the essential health and safety requirements of Directive 2014/34/EU, when intended to be used in potentially explosive atmospheres, to prevent any potential ignition points by sparks or heat and ensure safety conditions against the risk of explosion.

Handheld mobile phones and other devices concerned by the Directive (EU) 2022/2380 can have multiple connectors. To our knowledge there are already ATEX compliant handheld mobile phones on the market that integrate an USB-C charging connector protected with a cap and another type of charging connector.


Please note that while the European Commission can provide guidance on the interpretation of the legislation, only the EU courts are competent for the interpretation.



We would advise you to contact national authorities if you have further questions on the implementation.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

  
Head of Unit

c.c.:  (GROW);  (GROW)